

SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUBJECT Comment on Medical Practice, Research, Education,  
Facilities and Supplies.

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**SOURCE**

1. I have little information about medical research which is being conducted by the Chinese Communists, but I believe that some research is probably being done in the larger centers. I do not believe any is being done on Hainan.
2. From what I saw of medical practices in the [redacted] hospital in Hoikow after the Communists took it over I would say that medical practices were moving backwards in China rather than forward. The attitude of the doctors who are working for the Communists seems to be that they will do what they can to treat a patient as long as it does not involve anything out of the ordinary or anything which would be risky. They avoid trying anything new because anything they do which is unusual calls attention to them, and if anything goes wrong they are held responsible.
3. My impression is that there were no particular historical accomplishments in medical research in Communist China prior to 1949. The doctors under the Communists were caring for the people but they were not going ahead with research.
4. In the field of nutrition I have heard that some research has been done involving food items which had not previously been used in China, but I am unable to name any of them.
5. The Chinese Communists apparently believe that every doctor and nurse should have the opportunity to take graduate training after they have received their degrees. Doctors and nurses from Hainan have been sent to the mainland for graduate training since the Communists have been in control, and I am not sure where on the mainland they go ultimately, but they all go at least as far as Canton.
6. I have heard nothing about nurses receiving special training for the Filatov tissue therapy method, but some doctors in Hoikow are trying it without any particular training, and their attempts have stirred up some agitation. One of the nurses who had seen one or two of the cases said that the method had not been satisfactory. In Hong Kong I talked with a US doctor who told me that he had seen printed reports on the use of the Filatov method by Communist doctors at

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the Tungkun leper colony (on an island between Hong Kong and Canton) and that the reports were enthusiastic. He said that later he had talked with people who had been there and seen the work that had been done, and they reported that the end results were not good -- that patients had actually retrogressed rather than improved.

7. I know of no special therapy used on hospitalized cases for endemic diseases on Hainan Island. Therapy for malaria and amoebic dysentery appears to be the same as it was before the Communists came in. I have heard of no cases of plague on Hainan for a long time. The Communists are doing an excellent job of preventing typhoid and cholera. In 1950, after the Communist take-over, everyone received inoculations for these diseases and the following year the incidence of typhoid was markedly reduced. Before the Communists came in there had been quite a lot of typhoid -- as many as 10 or 15 cases in the hospital at one time -- but after 1950 it was unusual to see one or two cases in the hospital. If the Communists continue their system of inoculations they will do a great deal medically for Hainan. In addition to the inoculations the Communists are sending sanitary teams out to the villages to show them how to keep things clean, how to dig latrines, etc. The sanitary squads receive special training before going out to the villages.
8. In the [redacted] hospital in Hoihow the surgical or hemostatic sponges which the Communists are using are [redacted] supplies left over from the days before the Communist take-over, so I have no information on the type of sponges the Communists are supplying.
9. I saw no special equipment or unusual apparatus in the hospital in Hoihow after the Communists took over.
10. Penicillin, streptomycin and chloromycetin are being used in the Hoihow hospital, and I am not sure whether aureomycin is used or not. I have no information as to the degree of availability or the source of the antibiotics, but I doubt if there are any pharmaceutical production plants in Hoihow.
11. I believe that China would be able to synthesize drugs which normally are imported if they had the chemists to do it, but I doubt if there are any on Hainan. Under the Nationalists the National Epidemic Prevention Bureau had four laboratories that I know of where vaccine was produced. They were in Peiping, Nanking, Hankow and Kunming. I saw the lab in Kunming in 1940 and was very favorably impressed with it. I believe the vaccine which the Communists are using is still being produced in China, but I do not know whether it still comes from these laboratories. The smallpox vaccine they are using is very strong -- it seems to produce accelerated "takes" in most cases -- and the cholera vaccine is also very good. The Public Health Bureau in Hoihow where vaccinations are given is very clean -- the cleanest place for such purposes that I have ever seen in Hoihow. I was interested to note that the international vaccination cards issued by the Chinese which were formerly printed in Chinese, French and English, are now in Chinese, Russian and English.

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